STATE OF IOWA

TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR
KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

STEM ADVISORY COUNCIL BROADBAND COMMITTEE

Co-Chair John Carver, Superintendent, Howard-Winneshiek Community School District
Co-Chair Robert von Wolffradt, Chief Information Officer, State of Iowa
Amy Kuhlers, Program Manager, Connect Iowa
Robert Denson, President, Des Moines Area Community College
Dave Duncan, President, Iowa Telecommunication Association
Philip Groner, Iowa Communication Network
Karl Hehr, Director of Technology Services, Ames Community Schools District
Galen Howsare, Chief Financial Officer, Iowa Association of School Boards
Karen Randall, Keystone Area Education Association
Michael Sadler, Assistant VP for Public Policy
Larry Siegel, Iowa School Finance and Information System Services
Jeff Weld, Executive Director, Governor's STEM Advisory Council
Josh Byrnes, State Representative, District 14
Steven Sodders, State Senator, District 36

STEM ADVISORY COUNCIL BROADBAND COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2013, 9:00 – 10:30
Iowa Utilities Board, 1375 E Court Ave, Des Moines, IA
Conference Room 1-2

Committee Members Present:

John Carver	Robert von Wolffradt
Steve Sodders	Galen Howsare
Phillip Groner	Amy Kuhlers
Michael Sadler	Dave Duncan
Karl Hehr (via phone)	Karen Randall (via phone)
Larry Siegel (via phone)	Jeff Weld (via phone)

Committee Members Absent:
Josh Byrnes
Robert Denson

Other Attendees:

Adam Gregg, Governor's office	Tom Lampe, Dept. of Public Safety
Ric Lumbard, IA Comm. Network	Gwen Nagel, Dept. of Education
Sherry Timmins, IA Ec. Dev. Authority	Sheila Navis, Rural IA Ind. Tel. Assoc.
Rob Smith, Fiber Utilities	Wil Walling, Iowa Network Services
Todd Kielkopf, Indianola Mun. Utilities	

Other Attendees (via phone):

Jim Bogner, Dept. of Public Safety	Fred Eastman, MW Rural Telemedicine Consort.
Charlie Bruggemann, Windstream	Wauneta Brown, AT&T
Beth Canuteson, AT&T	Jeff Sabin, Drake
Ken Kass, Drake	Dustin Miller, Iowa League of Cities

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I. **Call to Order and Introductions:**

Meeting called to order at 9:00 by Co-Chair Carver. Committee members and guest attendees offered introductions

II. **Approval of Agenda:**

Galen Howsare moved to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Phil Groner, unanimously approved.

III. **Recap:**

a) Carver provided a welcome and overview of the initial committee meeting, and discussed the importance of the task ahead, highlighting a recent article in e-School News that outlined various state broadband initiatives and included Governor Branstad's Every Iowan Online.

b) Kuhlers discussed the importance of bringing together the public and private sector interests in a partnership to help ensure leadership and committee success moving forward to the December 1 policy recommendations and beyond. Possible policy recommendations for broadband access, adoption and use were distributed to attendees as a starting point of discussion.

IV. **Committee Member Updates:**

a) A subcommittee led by Denson was charged with researching some hyper-connected global cities/countries to provide a visionary framework of what has worked, and what might be possible for Iowa. Areas selected for comparison included Amsterdam, Netherlands; Seoul, Korea; Singapore; United Kingdom; and San Francisco. Some elements that were highlighted include:
    a. Average download speeds ranging from 20 – 40 Mbsp,
    b. Plans for increasing bandwidth capacity upwards to 50 – 100 Mbsp
    c. Multiple platforms utilized including DSL, cable, fiber and wireless
    d. Access, adoption and use were all included in importance
    e. Funding for infrastructure build was primarily through private sectors
    f. Success is driven by public-private partnerships supporting the build out of infrastructure, initial promotion of digital literacy and uses/access in public areas, which builds momentum for subscribers.

b) Groner had been tasked to review and report on other state's broadband policies and he provided members with a listing of links to those policies and gave a summary of twelve findings:
    a. Providing incentives and funding for infrastructure build including grants or state issued broadband bonds
    b. Promoting competition with innovation awards
    c. Encouraging private providers to bring broadband to rural communities through identification of underserved areas

d. Providing tax and financial incentives – tax credits to un and underserved areas such as a 10% tax credit on capital expenditures when expanding existing technology, or 20% when using next generation technology.
e. Creation of broadband service fund, similar to Universal Service Fund.
f. Simplify permits and access to Right-of-Ways, standardized applications to help streamline permitting, e-permits, creating standards
g. Support for continuous infrastructure upgrades
h. Allow government to provide wholesale services
i. Leverage public works for fiber deployments – for example, during a road project allowing private and public sectors to lay conduit for future build.
j. Describe/emulate best practice programs
k. Modernize current statutes and regulations
l. Establishment of telecenters in state's most distressed areas, geared towards access and use

Groner suggested reviewing some of these tactics and in combination with information provided from Connect Iowa, committee might be able to establish some foundational policy recommendations. Duncan commented that there were not a lot of Midwestern states in the listings, and it might be interesting to research NE, IL. Groner agreed, and indicated that he could do further research, but one commonality he noted regardless of where the state was located, is that each of the state's looked at unserved and underserved rural areas, similar to what Iowa is doing.

c) Duncan gave an overview of the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) regulatory workshop on 9-10-13
   a. Reviewed what the IUB does and does not regulate
      i. Regulates telephone voice services (quality, wholesale prices, etc.)
      ii. Grants certificates to land line phone companies to operate in Iowa
      iii. Grants certificates to cable TV on statewide franchise basis
      iv. Doesn't regulate the provision of broadband services
      v. Some dispute at federal level at to what jurisdiction FCC has over the regulation of broadband services and prices.
   b. In January 2013, IUB opened up notice of inquiry to invite anyone to submit comments on how to modernize rules in Iowa to encourage innovation and balance public interests. Asked a number of questions, first response in May, second in July.
      i. Considering that Iowa has more telecom providers than other states, the IUB has a good grasp on the broadband landscape as compared to other states.
      ii. Some metro hubs, but a vast majority populated rural areas.
      iii. Have formulated the questions they've asked into broader policy questions:
         1. Should the state ensure that all Iowan's have access to quality and reliable voice communication services?
         2. Should state ensure that all Iowan's have access to broadband?
         3. What is the role of the Board or state in encouraging development of broadband?
         4. How can regulations governing communication services best encourage efficiency and innovation, yet balance public interest?
         5. Others

    iv. Throughout proceeds, comments provided by a large number of entities
    v. All commenters agreed generally it is time to modernize rules in Iowa to create a level playing field. Some discussion on what is the proper role of IUB to encourage broadband services in Iowa.
    vi. One question Board Chair Jacobs asked – how does the state pursue the Governor's Connect Every Iowan initiative, as some Iowan's will be extremely expensive to serve. She also suggested that the Board might be promoting some legislation for upcoming session.
    vii. Sees a merging of concepts from IUB with CEI. Post workshop comments filed by ITA is one of the most important economic development and quality of life issues – not just about access, but also adoption.

c. Carver asked what the IUB role might be going forward. Duncan responded he didn't see them looking for new authority over services, but perhaps look at methods to reduce regulatory burdens and how the state might assist in adoption and investment.

d. Suzanne Smith with IUB indicated the Board wants innovation, but needs to protect the consumer. Balancing act between modernizing regulations and protection.

e. Sadler added that in addition to IUB there are other state agencies that could play a role, such as Dept. of Rev. proceedings – what is the proper way to tax telecom property going forward. Carver asked if Sadler would keep them apprised of developments.

f. Duncan reported the Chair Jacobs also mentioned the Board might be promoting some legislation for the upcoming session. Carver stated it would be powerful to have a joint voice. Kuhlers stated that other state departments should also weigh in to prevent duplicity in legislative recommendations across the board

V. **Public Comments**

a) John Stineman, Executive Director – Iowa Chamber Alliance and Heartland Technology Alliance
    a. See posted comments
    b. Follow up comments:
        i. Carver indicated the reason left San Francisco was due to better regulatory climate.
        ii. Stineman replied that in order to win the Google trial, KC was able to provide many accommodations and that should be considered.

b) Gwen Nagel, Director, Iowa Learning Online – Iowa Department of Education
    a. See posted comments
    b. Follow up comments/questions:
        i. Sadler commented on 1:1 initiatives, in that some students do not have adequate access at home.

 ii. Carver added some ideas include creating student accounts with lower costs, possible more public domains, some schools have gotten satellite cards, many students locate free wi-fi.

 iii. Hehr commented that the Sioux City CSD worked with a cell provider on a grant that provided cell cards for all devices for an initial period. Ames CSD have advertised locations in town that free wi-fi is available, they've reached out to businesses that offer wi-fi and many are 'student friendly' – students can feel free to just use the connectivity and not necessarily have to buy anything. Targeted areas of highest need.

 iv. Groner added there are new technologies that can also help access at home, such as utilizing white space technologies using vacant TV frequencies, that can be explored.

VI. Scheduling of Additional Stakeholder Input

a) During the Oct. 8 and Oct. 22 Committee would like to invite providers to provide comments as far as increasing service to underserved and unserved areas. During November meetings we will focus on recommendations. Other stakeholders to be contacted as well.

VII. General public Comments, Statements, Discussions

b) Carver gave summary of some emerging themes from today's meeting:
- a) This needs to be a business model - needs to be a friendly investment and regulatory environment.
- b) Public/Private partnership and what that might look like
- c) Multiple entities that want broadband issues address – education, workforce, economic development. This needs to be a priority.
- d) Adoption rate needs to be addressed
- e) Economic development issue – one of our greatest resources are children. We need to build an environment that encourages staying in the state.

f) Kuhlers encouraged committee member to familiarize themselves with some of the policy recommendations that were provided during meeting today. Carver also asked for a glossary of terms, and Kuhlers will distribute.

VIII. Housekeeping Items
a. Confirm November meeting
- a. A second November meeting was scheduled for November 8, also at the Iowa Utilities Board.

IX. Adjourn
a. Meeting adjourned at 10:40 AM